

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, as well as the prior amendment filed on December 30, 2003, claims 1-2, 4-15 and 17-20 will remain pending in the above-identified application.

The amendment made herein to claim 6 does not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed. In this respect, the amendment is made simply to improve the English grammatical format of the claim and to insure that proper antecedent basis occurs for the term "said absorbent body" throughout claim 6.

Comments on Advisory Action

On January 28, 2004, the USPTO issued an Advisory Action in the matter of the present case. In response to the Advisory Action, Applicants note as follows.

First, as indicated above, claim 6 has been amended to remove the term "elongate" which is referred to in the Advisory Action.

Second, it is submitted that each of the pending claims, as instantly amended, clearly and distinctly sets forth Applicants' invention. The statute, 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, requires no more.

Further, Applicants note that the specification as originally filed at page 6, lines 19-27, properly supports the language in Applicants claims reciting that "wherein each of said wing portions includes a liquid-retentive wing portion absorbent core, and after

1 minute after dropping 1 g of a physiological solution of sodium chloride onto a liquid-retentive wing portion absorbent core, the solution disperses to an area of the wing portion absorbent core measuring no larger than 80 cm²".

In support of this contention, it is noted that the original language at page 6, lines 19-27 clearly refers to "wing portion absorbent cores 32", so that the subsequent amendment of this paragraph to refer to the "wing portion absorbent core" at lines 23 and 26 did not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed.

Third, based upon the amendments made herein, as well as those earlier submitted on December 30, 2003, and now entered, it is submitted that each of the Examiner's outstanding rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested, indicating that each of the pending claims 1-2, 4-15 and 17-20 are allowable at present.

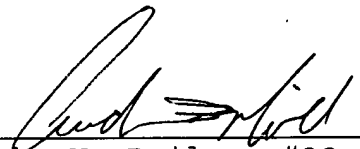
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #32868
for John W. Bailey, #32,881

JWB/enm
0445-0275P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000